

REMARKS

Applicants cancel all claims through claim 16 and also cancel claim 20. Furthermore, Applicants wish to clarify their elections and claims readable thereon as follows, and for consistency will refer to the elections by the numbers used in the previous response.

1. *Method claims*

Claims reading on this election are claims 21-42.

3. *Coating the chemical additive on the diffuser before use*

Claims reading on this election are claims 21, 22 and 24-35.

4. *Chemical additive has bubble coalescence retardation properties*

Claims reading on this election are claims 21, 22, and 24-35.

5. *The diffuser is a perforated hose made from polymeric material*

Claims reading on this election are claims 21, 22, 24-26 and 28-35.

6. *Preconditioning the diffuser by soaking in salt water before coating*

Claims reading on this election are claims 21, 22, 24-26 and 28-35.

8. *The chemical additive is Pluronic L81*

Claims reading on this election are claims 21, 22, 24-26, and 28-33.


A listing of all claims readable on all of Applicants' elections are claims 21, 22, 24 - 26 and 28 - 33.

By way of traversing restriction requirements, Applicants respectfully believe that:

- (a) Claims 21-23 are generic to at least all "species" identified by the examiner in items 4-6 and 8;
- (b) Claim 21 is generic to two of the "species" identified by the Examiner in item 3: coating the diffuser and mixing in during fabrication of the diffuser;
- (c) Claim 24 is generic to all "species" identified by the examiner in items 5-6 and 8, as well as to other species/embodiments not specifically mentioned in the claims such as diffusers that are not hoses, or are hoses but not made of either polymeric or elastomeric material;
- (d) Claims 25-27 are generic to at least all "species" identified by the examiner in items 6 and 8; and
- (e) Claims 28-30 are generic to all species identified by the examiner in item 8 as well as to other suitable additives not mentioned by name in the application.

Date: May 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


J. Paul Plummer
Reg. No. 40,775

ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
P.O. Box 2189
Houston, Texas 77252-2189
Telephone: (713) 431-7360
Facsimile: (713) 431-4664